

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Thursday, February 13. 1706.

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**P**atience, Gentlemen, but a little for this one *Review* more, and I'll lay by this tedious Subject a while, and divert you with something less serious—— Union is a strange thing in *England*, and now we begin to talk near Hand; presents us a vast Variety of Branches, which take up more Time, than perhaps has been expected.

But pray, Gentlemen, consider, if itching Ears be a National Error, and nothing can be material enough to hold long, and please you too; yet this being a Subject, which perhaps may never come before you again, especially if rightly manag'd now, you will never think it long hereafter, if you can but have Patience now.

It cannot but be diverting, when our Posterity shall see the blessed Fruits of this U-

nion to look back and see, who oppos'd it— The View of the ridiculous Scruples, the wild Demand of *what Security* to every Trifle, the *Suspicious, Suggestions, the May be's, Supposes, What if's*, and all the Pageantry of our sorrowful Complainers in the North, how vain, how empty, how absurd will they appear!

What a Monster of Incoherence will appear, hatch'd between a *Jacobite* and a jealous *Presbyterian*, in the wild Concurrence of both to the Nation's Good? How will the latter blush, when he shall be upbraided with his opposing the only Security, he could ever attain to in this World for the Church of *Scotland*? When the *British Constitution*, built on the firm Base of Justice and Truth, comes to diffuse the Blessed Rays of Peace and Liberty, and the Church of

of *Scotland* comes to flourish under a mild, a peaceable and a just Government! How will they be asham'd of all their Suspicions, their Jealousies, their Diffidence in their Neighbours, and their Backwardness to trust those, that having settled themselves on a sure Foundation, are willing to help them to the same Happiness?

This indeed affects the People of *Scotland*, as far as hitherto can be understood, and I own, I mean by this; that the unreasonable Jealousies there, among the very best People, have created innumerable Difficulties; but those Difficulties seem to be over now, and they come in among those People, whom it often pleases GOD to save, by what they apprehend to be their Destruction.

I will not yet apply this to *England*, the Scene is now removed hither, what the Opposers of it will have to argue from, I have not yet heard, nor can I well imagine?

I know, the main Objections are Trade and the Church— But I cannot but think, both are so stale, that they will be hardly started again; and if they are, I am not at all at a Loss to obviate both; and prove, that in Trade *Scotland* shall not do you the least Injury, but rather improve you, and yet encrease her self too; especially when you shall think fit to assist her by all those Methods, Neighbourhood Kindness and your own Interest shall prompt you to— And this I make no Question to make appear to the general Satisfaction.

As to the Church, I think, one side or other must be in the wrong. If the Church of *England* be in Hazard of Subversion by the Encroachments of Presbytery, then all our uneasy Friends in *Scotland* must be in the wrong, and they may sit down satisfied they are in a State of Security.

But if the Church of *Scotland* be in Hazard from the Legislation of Bishops, the Superiority of Votes in a *British* Parliament, from the Invasion of their Establishment and Infraktion of the Treaty, from the Power and Strength of the *English*. Why then, Gentlemen of the Church of *England*, you must hold your Peace! The Complaint can be but on one side— And so I shall have but one sort of Opposers in this Argument—

And I am very indifferent which it is; for I think, it will be no difficult Task to prove, that the sacred Stipulations of the Treaty are a firm and indissoluble Barrier between both, by which either side are effectually secured beyond a Possibility of being injur'd by one another; and this I doubt not to prove from all the Arguments, that are proper to convince Men of Sense.

As to unconvertible Obstinacy, I have nothing to say to it, I am not talking to Brutes, but to Men, to Christians, Men of Reason, and Men that are suppos'd to exercise that Reason; and to such I must say, I think, 'tis hard to find them resolve, not to be answer'd, but by Consequences.

However, I am glad to have the Opportunity to say to such, the business is over on that side; the Power of Scruples, Jealousies, and Phlegmatick Surmises is at an End; nor is their any occasion to pity them, but I Congratulate their disappointed passions, I am glad to tell them they shall be happily defeated; every thing shall be better to them then their Coarse, and darkned Fancies shall represent, and they shall only have it to remember, that they only were found among the Unbelieving in *Israel*, that had not Hearts to consent to the happiness of their Native Country.

I confess, it would have been strange, if *Scotland* should have been without some among her wise ones, whose Judgment should be darken'd; as to their Countries Good, I am not to expect, that every one should see as far as another, but that which I complain of, is, not that they do not see, but that they will not see. Ignorance when natural or accidental, or otherwise occasion'd by its proper Negative is an *Infirmity*; but when either the effect of negligence in easy Inquiries, or rejecting Information is what we ought to know, it then becomes Criminal and Inexcusable.

The Application, I desire to make of all this, is to *England*, not to fall into the same blindness, and raise the like needless and weak scruples, suggestions, and surmises of what may happen, or what they fear will happen, and fright Ignorant well-meaning People with Spectrums of they know not what.

You



You see the Church of *Scotland*, pretends to be afraid of their Ruin, and of being swallow'd up by the Encroachments of the Church of *England*; they say their Reasons are good, for those fears they are jealous, even of the whole Treaty on that particular Account—The fear cannot be here too—Let mutual stipulations secure you both, and let needless fears be banish'd—This is coming to a Treaty of Union, with a Spirit of Union — And without this Temper, no Union however wisely made, can be effectual on either side; for in vain are Treaties, Articles, and Agreements; if a Spirit of Jealousie remains between the Nations, if a suspicion and fear of Encroachment remains, mutual distrust will have no other Effect, then to prevent the mutual Advantages of the Treaty, and rob both sides of that Happiness which they may both enjoy.

This is that indeed, which may bring both sides to fulfil the Evil Tydings, the false Prophets of each Nation have foretold, and nothing but this can do it; and I cannot but observe, that those who have first Prophesied, or rather unhappily suggested the possibility of ill Consequences from the Union are very busy by their Contrivances to bring their sayings to pass; they are busie Dividing, Misrepresenting, and raising Breaches between the Nations, that if possible, the Evil Effects they have foretold may come to pass, and they may at one Blow, both ruine their Country, and boast of the goodness of their Judgment in foretelling it.

To such I can only say this, they are the worst sort of Incendiaries, and the Ruine and Destruction of their Country lyes doubly at their Door, they would do well to consider it in time; for whenever their Folly comes to be detected, they will certainly be justly Condemn'd of all good Men, and every side will be against them; for tho' Innocent Men may fall foolishly out with one another, they always discover the Sowers of Discord at last, and equally abhor him, if not endeavour to punish him.

If ever these Nations Unite, whether it be that such a Union shall be follow'd with Success or not? with Success these sort of People will share the common Aversion;

they that fall out, let the Quarrel issue how it will, always hate the Hand that set them together by the Ears; if it be Evil, it is odds if it does not fall on their Heads, and very well they will deserve it; if it be good they will be hated for endeavouring to lessen or delay it.

'Tis a Lesson I would have all sowers of Discord learn, they always gain the universal hatred let Matters go which way they will, and very often are made the Sacrifice of both Parties, offer'd up to their succeeding Reconciliation.

**W**HEREAS, the Author of this Paper has for some time been out of England, and consequently is suppos'd not near enough to his Affairs, to receive such Letters as are wanted to be convey'd to him; These are to give Notice, that any Letters left as usual for him at Mr. Matthews will carefully be sent to him, and such Answers as are proper be return'd by him in a Weeks time, either in this Paper or as shall be Directed.

Also that all such serious or diverting Subjects, whether Questions or otherwise, as any of the Ingenious Readers are pleas'd to send as formerly, shall be spoken to as usual, in the best manner the Author can do it, which he hopes shall be as acceptable as before.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

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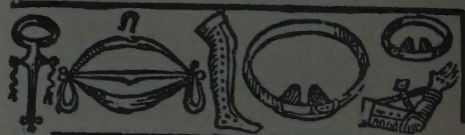
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